

schwarz-weiße Abbildungen sowie zwölf Farbtafeln. Er liefert damit hochinteressante Einblicke in die visuelle Kultur sowie die Alltags- und Konsumkultur der sozialistischen Länder in transnationaler Perspektive.

Antje Dietze, Leipzig

Thi Hanh Nguyen: Les Conflits Frontaliers Sino-Vietnamiens de 1883 à nos Jours, Paris: Editions Demopolis 2018, 403 p.

The book is part of the research series of Demopolis Publishing, which is dedicated to “support the processes of reflexion and enrichment of knowledge within the humanities and social sciences.” This book was published as a common effort of the Labex TransferS – the research excellence initiative of the Ecole Normale Supérieure – and the Hanoi National University of Education (HNUE) and is the second and updated edition of the author’s doctoral thesis, originally published in 2007. The originality of this book is based on the author’s extensive archival work and in-depth analysis of French and Vietnamese sources. The author is a historian, professor at the HNUE and expert on Sino-Vietnamese History. The purpose of her monograph is not to give a definitive history of both countries’ entangled history and of the still on-going border conflicts. Rather, the book gives a *longue-durée* perspective of the understudied Sino-Vietnamese border conflicts’ history. With this book, the author demonstrates how over the course of almost two and a half centuries French,

Japanese, and US American interferences complicated the already conflicted terrestrial and maritime border conflicts that existed between China and Vietnam. Throughout the monograph, the author shows the interplay of power relations and interests of the different nations. A special focus lies in France and China, the main powers in the history of the conflict. Indeed, France’s colonial game played in Vietnam with the establishment of its sovereignty over the Annam Empire against China is an important part of the story. China’s relationship with Vietnam is ambivalent: China plays an integral part in Vietnamese domestic issues, especially against US American capitalism, while at the same time viewing its border to Vietnam as a strategic issue where it is necessary to retain authority.

The book consists of three parts, which are organised chronologically. The first part deals with the history of the Sino-Vietnamese border prior to 1885 in order to set the context for the following parts. The second part analyses how the border conflict between China and Vietnam was impacted throughout the period of French colonial involvement in Vietnam between 1885 and 1954. The third part covers the easing and eventual solving of the border conflict since 1954 and shifts the focus to present-day conflicts between the two nations.

This book is recommended for historians of Sino-Vietnamese relations, Empire, French colonialism, and border conflicts.

Yasmine Najm